PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



DESPITE the abundance of festive touches like the colors and carols of the season, Christmas lanterns, the banter and laughter of merrymakers, there's no distracting from the shared objective of the gathering of thousands on Ayala Avenue–Paseo de Roxas, no diminishing the fire of their anger in the pursuit of that objective. Which is compelling that it pulled together people who did not even like to be seen with each other.

Rage vs GMA, Con-ass

US Senate kills $14-B auto bailout

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A PROposed $14-billion bailout of the US automobile industry failed in the Senate on Thursday night, after the United Auto Workers union refused to accede to Republican demands for swift wage cuts, raising the specter of an industry collapse that sent Asian markets reeling and sparked fears it could deepen the recession.

"It's over with," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said of congressional efforts this year just before the Democratic proposal to extend up to $14 billion to the stricken industry was rejected 52-35 on a procedural vote, well short of the 60 required after the talks fell apart.

Pressure immediately shifted to the White House, with calls for President George W. Bush to consider

US SENATE/ A17



THERE'S FORD IN YOUR FUTURE Bishop Ellis prays that it may be so for the entire US auto industry during a special service at the Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, Michigan. His special message is titled "A Hybrid Hope."

Legendary Wall Street trader held over epic $50-B fraud

NEW YORK—ON WALL STREET, his name is legendary. He built a trading powerhouse that prospered for more than four decades. At age 70, he had become an influential spokesperson for the traders who are the hidden gears of the marketplace.

But on Thursday, this consummate trader, Bernard L. Madoff, was arrested at his home by federal agents who accused him of running a multibillion-dollar "Ponzi" fraud scheme—perhaps the largest in Wall Street's history.

Regulators have not yet been able to verify the scale of the fraud. But the criminal complaint filed against him in federal court on Thursday reports that Madoff himself estimated the losses at $50 billion.

Andrew M. Calamari, an associate director for enforce-

LEGENDARY/ A17

Makati protest draws 7,000 from left to right

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora, Marlon Ramos and Allison W. Lopez

THEY CAME TO EXPRESS THEIR RAGE. THEY described the object of their rage the worst Philippine president since World War II and, shouting expletives, urged the people to thwart her alleged intention to be President for life.

"P___ ina! (SOB) ... Patayin nag Gloria-forever Cha-cha na ito! (Let us kill this Gloria-forever Charter change!)" opposition Sen. Mar Roxas, normally known for keeping his decorum, screamed at a rally in Makati yesterday held to denounce moves by Malacañang allies to revise the Constitution through a Constituent Assembly (Con-ass).

Some protesters wore shirts printed with the words "Evil" and "lucky bitch." One banner said in

RAGE/ A4

President cancels trip to South

By TJ Burgonio

AS THOUSANDS MASSED IN Makati City for yesterday's rally against Charter change, President Macapagal-Arroyo was holed up at the Palace engrossed in paper work.

"She's here in Malacañang. She will not allow herself to be distracted by the rally," Secretary Cerge Remonde, the Presidential Management Staff chief, said on the phone.

PRESIDENT/ A8

Businessmen hit upon 'comfort zone' in rally

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP business executives shared the spotlight with politicians and leftist leaders at yesterday's protest rally against moves to amend the Constitution, but a "comfort zone" between them at least made the businessmen feel better.

"Some people say this (protest) is unnecessary but we have to let those in Congress who are pushing for Charter change [know] that there is a broad front against Cha-cha," Alberto A. Lim, executive director of the Makati Business Club (MBC), said in an interview.

Lim recalled that in a previ-

BUSINESSMEN/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

CHR also deals with daily abuses

By Nikko Dizon

i-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

THE HEAVY WORKLOAD cleaning the house and taking care of her employer's newborn was too much for Vanessa Enriquez and her fellow house help that they both decided to quit shortly after they were hired a few months ago.

But leaving did not come easy for Vanessa, who is in her 20s. She was charged with theft by her employer for allegedly stealing ₱10,000 and was detained by police.

With the help of a popular broadcaster, Enriquez's family sought the help of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to clear her name.

The CHR's National Capital Region office raised funds for Enriquez's bail. It also prepared to go after the employer for human rights transgressions, but the Enriquez family later backed down.

Carmen Ronete, chief of the

CHR/ A8



P300M in 2 lotto draws: Santa may buy a ticket

By Julie M. Aurelio

WITH ALMOST P300 MILLION AT STAKE in two lotto draws this week, even Santa Claus may line up for a ticket.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has estimated Sunday's 6/49 Super

P300M/ A4



RP'S LARGEST MALL Henry Sy, founder and chair of SM Prime Holdings and its president, his son Hans Sy threw the doors wide open on Friday to what is today the country's biggest mall, the SM City North Edsa in Quezon City. It was the first ever SM mall which is now not only the largest among the SM malls but the world's third largest with its six-story annex of 425,000 square meters of shops, food courts and supermarkets under one roof.



New uniforms, boots in Marines' Christmas list

ISABELA CITY, BASILAN—ALL they want for Christmas is new uniforms and boots.

Philippine Marines pursuing armed groups involved in kidnapping for ransom here knew when they arrived on Nov. 28 that they would not be able to spend the yuletide holidays with their families.

Nor are they hoping to, not as they inch closer to their targets' lair.

NEW UNIFORMS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

MEGALOTTO 6/45

2 9 16 23 35 36

P111,384,077.40

Appeals court hears Bolante

By Norman Bordadora

THE COURT OF APPEALS yesterday heard former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante's petition for habeas corpus even after his release from detention by the Senate blue ribbon committee.

[illegible]

'Preemptive' move

[illegible]



BOLANTE

Arnault's case

[illegible]

Ebola: Hog raisers to get aid

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is preparing a program to assist hog producers in farms where the Ebola Reston virus had been detected.

[illegible]

Lab kits

[illegible]

Sulpicio finds buyer for ship wreckage

By Kristine L. Alave

[illegible]



Another rollback possible, exec says

By Abigail L. Ho

[illegible]

Scarce next year

[illegible]

Alleged MILF bomb maker falls

[illegible]

LAWMAKING BY REMOTE CONTROL

Senate to bend rules for Trillanes

By Christine O. Avendaño



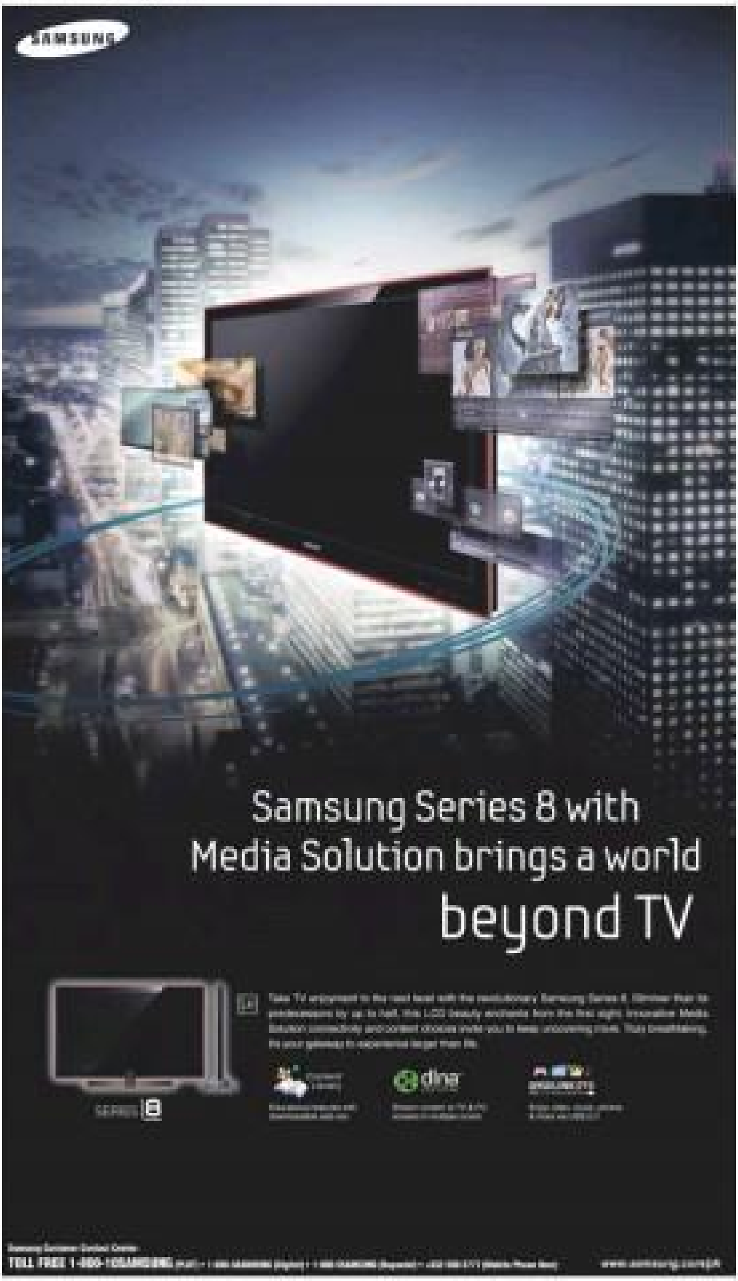
TRILLANES

SC to probe leak of poll case ruling

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Chinese citizen

Carpio 'reflections'





WHISTLE-BLOWER

Cha-cha like 'dancing on broken glass'





OPPOSITION STALWARTS



THE LIBERAL PARTY

Keeping GMA afloat

Protesters thwarted

Why Erap couldn't make it to Ayala rally

She 'flatlined'

Jinggoy was pinch-hitter



'THE RIGHT THING TO DO'

Rage vs GMA, Con-ass in Makati Interfaith rally

To twist Constitution

Not after numbers

'Worst president'

Christmas lights

Danger of war

Teasing the Church

Missing in action

For GMA

BI links up with Interpol on blacklist

Bonus of gov't workers released Monday





Militants stage noise barrage

More checkpoints

No blockades

Bro. Mike brings to Negros campaign vs Con-ass



VELARDE





Businessmen hit upon 'comfort zone' in rally

A matter of colors

Case to case

Wary of 'accidents'

Also opposed but not rally

₱300M in 2 lotto draws ...

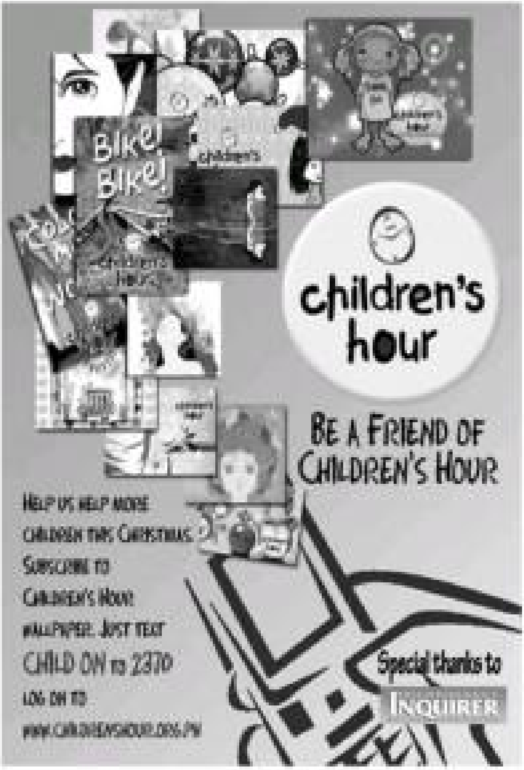
Boosting prize

Avoid lines, buy early

No draw on Christmas

Dream big

Previous wins



UP caps Centennial fete today







President cancels trip to South on commanders' advice

"Last rally"

PSG watchful

Distancing act

GMA leaves for Qatar today

By TJ Burgonio

Peace talks

Itinerary

War goes on

Exploded by remote control

Zero casualty

CHR also deals with daily abuses

Daily infractions

Rights known only to educated

Balancing act

Palace hands off

Need for education

Toothless tiger

Logistics

New uniforms, boots in Marines' Christmas list

Tattered uniforms

Magdalo demand



BATTLE WEARY, NOT BATTLE READY

BSP padlocks 3 more rural banks

SC intervenes

Chamber of Thrift Banks

Collective responsibility



PLEDGES AT EDSA SHRINE

Bobi Valenzuela, art curator; 64

THE DAILY GOSPEL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Opinion

Undeserved gift

IN AN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF MAGNANIMITY, the Senate blue ribbon committee freed last Wednesday Jocelyn Bolante after holding him in detention for six days for refusing to tell the truth about the P728-million fertilizer scam. Sen. Richard Gordon said the committee voted to release Bolante after it had filed with the Department of Justice a complaint against the former agriculture undersecretary for ignoring its summonses and giving false testimony. "This should serve as a strong warning not only to Bolante but also other witnesses who would testify before the Senate," said Gordon who chairs the committee.

Editorial

If that was the intention, we don't see anybody shaking in fear of the Senate now or in the future, least of all Bolante. In fact, Gordon sounded like he was giving the unrepentant Bolante an undeserved reward rather than his just desserts, promising the witness he had accused of perjuring himself, "You will have a merry Christmas."

It seems rather strange that anybody in the committee would want Bolante to have a merry Christmas. In several appearances before the committee, lasting a total of 15 hours by his own count, Bolante wove a tale of innocent dealings with his subordinates in the Department of Agriculture, with fertilizer suppliers and with hundreds of beneficiaries in the House of Representatives and local government offices. Other witnesses, particularly Commission on Audit officials, spoke of gross overpricing of fertilizers and other illegal disbursements of public funds. Top regional officials of the Department of Agriculture contradicted his claims that they were involved in the planning of the projects and that the program was a regular undertaking of the department. Still Bolante stuck to his tale, implying that he alone was telling the truth.

His actions belied his words, starting with his failure to heed subpoenas issued by the committee, his flight to the United States and his malingering at St. Luke's Hospital following his deportation from the United States. If he did no wrong, why did he flee to the United States? And who in his right mind would throw away two years of his life as a detainee in a US immigration facility to avoid telling a story of fair dealing and honest work?

After all the humiliation and deprivation he endured to keep his secret, Bolante's plea for release, citing his "sacrifices" and his family's "agony" at seeing him suffer, was nothing more than crocodile tears. The wonder is why the senators heeded his request. He had not changed his testimony, he had not become more cooperative, he was still a barefaced liar, as far as the committee was concerned. And in sticking to his story, as Gordon put it, he "did not purge himself of the contempt citation." So why did the committee set him free?

Apparently the committee members thought the filing of the case would set the wheels of justice grinding. But they thought wrong. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has said the DOJ would not look into the complaint unless the blue ribbon committee stopped its investigation into the fertilizer scam. Which means that the committee must first stop trying to force Bolante to tell the truth or seeking out the truth from other witnesses, before the DOJ will act on the complaint. The case against Bolante is now in limbo. And like the turtle in the fable who was thrown into the water, Bolante and his principals must be happy that the senators made monkeys of themselves.



The corruption blame game

Public Lives

Randy David

THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD TO DO is to blame corruption on those institutions perceived to be primarily responsible for the morals of a society, namely, the churches and the schools. [illegible]

[illegible]

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Cheated citizens

THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS HAVE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN A year that Gov. Rod Blagojevich is, despite his title, not capable of governing.

And now US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald of Chicago has laid out a devastating set of criminal charges against Blagojevich and his chief of staff.

Foreign Comment

The governor must resign immediately. If he doesn't, the Illinois House should begin proceedings to impeach him, and to ask the Senate to try him.

This moment, though, shouldn't be all about politicians and laws. This moment should be about the serially cheated citizens of Illinois, people who pay their taxes and expect honest government in return. They have to choose better officials. They have to demand more. They deserve more.

Governor, resign.

—*Chicago Tribune*

The Palafox challenge

Get Real

Solita Collas-Monsod

I HAVE MORE THAN THE NORMAL INTEREST in the controversy between the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Architect Felino "Jun" Palafox, because my husband and I have been weekend residents of Subic for the past 12 years, and therefore what is happening there literally hits close to home. [illegible]

[illegible]

Bribe solicitations shoot up

Social Climate



Mahar Mangahas

Toxic bias

Young Blood

The youth as a driving force for change

Commentary

Ching Jorge

A landowner's point of view

Commentary

Notice to Youngblood contributors

The healing power of laughter



Manny doesn't have to enter politics to serve people

Probe of SCR controversy in order

Old trees in Subic face certain death

On media killings: go after the masterminds too

Has De Quiros made us proud?

Christmas without Christ

HIGH BLOOD

MEDCo should stay under OP

INQUIRER Visayas

Pirates land in 'amazing' Christmas village

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City



Boracay tourism personnel prepare for Russian visitors

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City



Across the NATION

Vets study how ebola struck swine

GOVERNMENT VETERINARIANS AT THE BUREAU of Animal Industry are studying how the Ebola-Reston virus, detected among monkeys in Laguna in 1988 to 1992, was transmitted to swine, BAI Director Davinio Catbagan said.

No deaths

Safe to eat

Sales good

SCTEx to give access to Clark through new road Dec. 23

Comelec says plebiscite to divide Quezon a go

Materials ready

Simple process



Death toll in East Visayas floods now 11

Baguio accepts mining firm offer for site of landfill



Long process

No cost

World stocks crash as US Senate rejects auto bailout

US Senate kills $14-B auto bailout

Legendary Wall Street trader held over epic $50-B fraud



IN THE KNOW

Ponzi scheme 1, 2, 3

News

Peso retreats to P48 to $1 on US woes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO RETREATED TO THE P48 level against the US dollar yesterday as offshore investors dumped assets from Asia's emerging markets after talks on the bailout of large US car manufacturers collapsed at the US Senate.

The local currency closed at the day's low of P48.11 after opening at the day's high of P47.70 against the greenback as dealers loaded up on dollars brought by gloomier prospects of America's largest carmakers Ford, Chrysler and General Motors.

Hardly bothered by the [illegible] market rally that converged at Ayala yesterday, currency dealers said it was the string of negative news in the United States that pulled back the peso from two-month highs.

"The rally was after trading and I think it won't affect the peso unless [illegible] spread or new [illegible]," said Benedict Jose Arcinas, economist of Export and Industry Bank.

Aside from the stalled US bailout package for large carmakers, stocks, currency and bond markets across the region were weighed down by the surge in US jobless claims and a record drop in import prices.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. senior vice president Marcelo Ayes said the markets were taken aback by the flopped $14-billion car industry bailout talks and feared that the car companies may be driven into bankruptcy.

"This caused a rethinking of investments in high-yielding instruments and emerging markets," Ayes said.

The peso shed P0.33 from Thursday's finish of P47.78 against the greenback. Volume at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System surged to $1.04 billion from the previous day's $747 million as investors shifted to the dollar as a knee-jerk reaction to the collapsed US bailout talks.

But Ayes said talks would hopefully be revived in the coming days and that the US Senate would soon be able to pass the package that would boost the car companies.

He added that the peso could regain ground in the days ahead because of large remittances from overseas Filipinos in time for the Christmas holidays.

At the most, Ayes said the peso would test P48.15 to P48.20 and then end the year closer to P47 against the dollar.

"It may overshoot P48.50," he said.

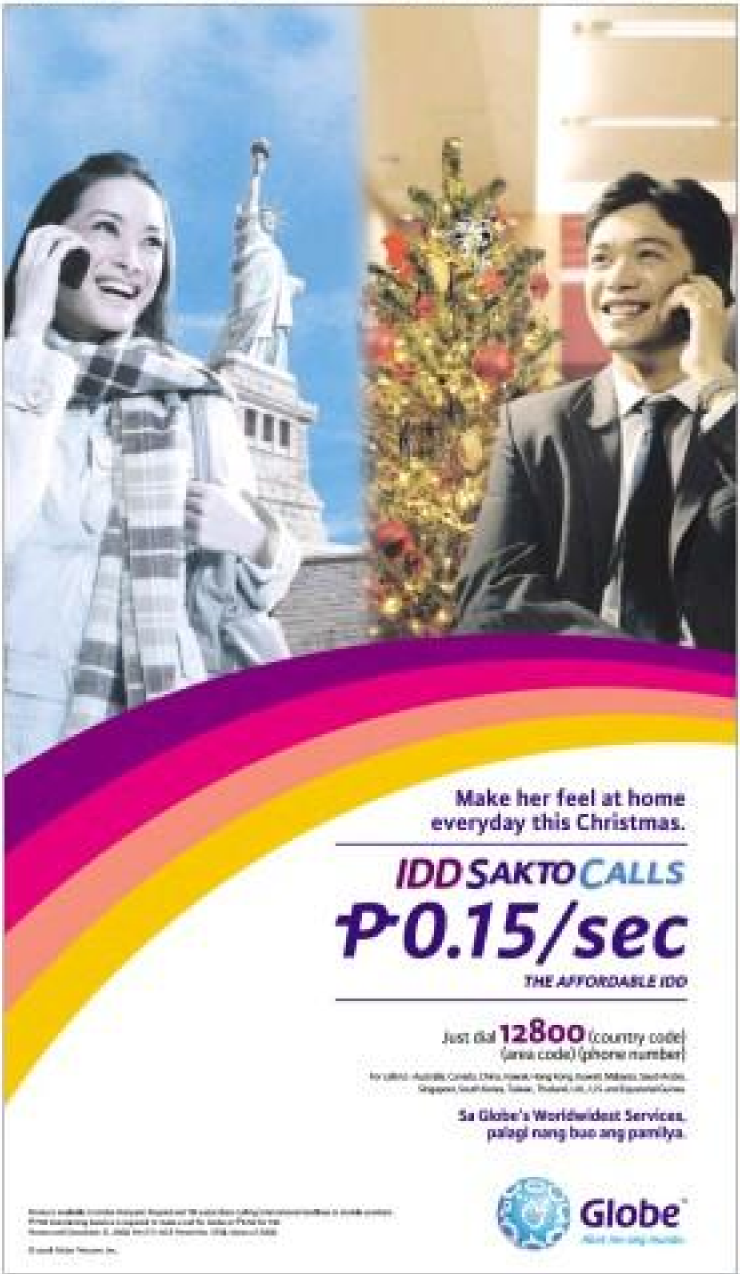
Ramon Lim, treasurer at the Philippine National Bank, said there was thin demand for the dollar which meant that the peso could recover in the following days.

He added that domestic political issues could affect the financial markets only in the short term.

"We expect a lot of selling/reversion of the long holidays," Lim said.

He said the local currency could end at P47.50 against the dollar at year's end. For 2009, he said the peso could trade between a range of 48 and 52 versus the greenback.

Other Asian currencies tumbled yesterday after a week-long rally due to stalled talks at the US Senate.



Prosecutor in hot water for taking case papers home

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR FACES trial at the Sandiganbayan for allegedly bringing home and keeping a case folder for nine months.

The Office of the Ombudsman accused [illegible] prosecutor Alfredo Barcelona Jr. of violating Article 226 of the Revised Penal Code, penalizing any public officer who removes, destroys or conceals documents officially entrusted to him.

A resolution approved by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez stated that Barcelona removed from the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor documents detailing a qualified theft case filed by a certain Rosalito Bactarin and kept them in his house for more than nine months.

Despite demands to turn over the case folder to state prosecutor Ringgar Pinote, the provincial prosecutor allegedly refused to do so.

"Such an act is strongly abhorred under [the law]," the resolution said.

Qualified theft

Bactarin filed the complaint of qualified theft in June 2004 before the provincial prosecutor's office in [illegible] against five people: Pilar Mendoza, Jose Santos, Elena Barcelona, Rodrigo Arce and Joseph Mercado.

Barcelona assigned the case to Prosecutor [illegible] for preliminary investigation. Four months later, the latter returned the case folder to Barcelona with a resolution for his approval.

However, the provincial prosecutor, instead of acting on the resolution, allegedly brought the case folder home and refused to turn it over to his superior.

The case was reported to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who later endorsed Bactarin's complaint to Pinote.

In June 2005, Pinote informed Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno that he could not act on Bactarin's case since the documents were under the custody of Barcelona.

"With the foregoing premises considered, this office finds probable cause that Barcelona violated Article 226 of the Revised Penal Code... let the information be filed in the Sandiganbayan," the ruling said.

More rains this weekend

By Nikko Dizon

ATTENTION SHOPPERS: BRING AN umbrella this weekend.

The tail-end of a cold front will bring rain, particularly in Central and Southern Luzon, as well as intermittent and scattered rainshowers in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

Weather forecaster chief Nathaniel Cruz said a tropical depression is also expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility early today but "would be too far to directly affect" the country.

"It is rainy today and tomorrow, it's not because of the tropical depression but because of the cold front," Cruz said.

He explained that a cold front is a large mass of air covering thousands of kilometers.

Cruz said that hopefully, the tropical cyclone would be the last to hit the country this year.

The country has experienced 20 typhoons since January.

A plus METRO

PNP calls 'rubout' tag on shootout as unfair

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) yesterday called "unfair" witness statements tagging the bloody Dec. 5 Parañaque encounter a rubout, testimony that buried in doubt one of the year's largest operations against syndicated crime.



Shootout victims' remains back in Pangasinan

1,000 kilos of double dead meat seized by QC health authorities

By Julie M. Aurelio

215 families hit by NLEx project moved to new site

By Beverly T. Natividad



CREEK ACCIDENT

Assassins in bike kill trader in front of his home

By Julie M. Aurelio

MetroBriefs

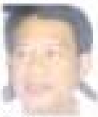
Fake gold bar sellers nabbed

Blood bank owner, staff face charges

Ex-Nawasa man loses gun, cash to thieves

Bayani to render kundiman songs

Have you seen him?



Oops, wrong customer

Shootout victims' remains ...

Instant fame and drugs

On Target

Ramon Tulfo





MAKING CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE

14 alleged Islamic extremists seized in Belgium



WORLDBRIEFS

Greek-inspired protests spread across Europe

Taiwan's ex-president Chen indicted for corruption



CHEN

Pakistan detains founder of group accused in Mumbai

Obama picks Daschle to head health and human services

Switzerland joins European open borders area

The WORLD

55 dead in bombing in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE BOMBER KILLED AT LEAST 55 people on Thursday in a packed restaurant near the northern city of Kirkuk where Kurdish officials and Arab tribal leaders were trying to reconcile their differences over control of the oil-rich region.



PROFANE Model María Florencia Onori poses as a representation of the Virgin for the December issue of Playboy Magazine Mexico, which was released on the eve of the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico. Headline reads in Spanish "We adore you, Mary"

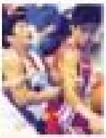
Rumsfeld responsible for Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo abuses —US Senate



RUMSFELD

WASHINGTON—FORMER DEFENSE SECretary Donald Rumsfeld and other senior US officials share much of the blame for detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to portions of a report released on Thursday by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Reuters



WHAT'S INSIDE

Generix take on Stunners /A24

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres • Assistant Editor: Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

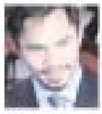
13th straight win gives Celtics best franchise start /A25



GMA among guests in Pacquiao's 'for adults only' party

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

Six roasted cows, 25 roasted pigs



PACQUIAO

Belasco big as Tigers spill SMB

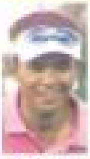
By Musong R. Castillo



Nutri C, Smart fives forge WPBL semis clash

By Jasmine W. Payo

Pucay 4 shots off the pace after a 67



PUCAY 1 under par

Dolphins, Unibikers start championship series today

Pharex duels beefed-up BK

Batang Pier nemeses try it again



NCAA defers decision on replacement for PCU

La Salle golfers expect fierce Ateneo fightback

SPORTSWATCH

Sea Lions keep semis hopes alive

SJC 5-cock derby fires off

Ballgon second round today

Paging Dr. Manny Pacquiao

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad





Gonzales fights Mexican



13th straight win gives Celtics best franchise start

Sportswatch

Globetrotters player dies

Pavin: US Ryder captain

$4.7-B Chicago Olympics

Ronaldo finally sees light

RP golfers blow Sabah title bids

POF: Laguna swimmers make presence felt



BORJA

Unity beads Cojuangco's agenda



COJUANGCO

Kepner eyes second drag race victory



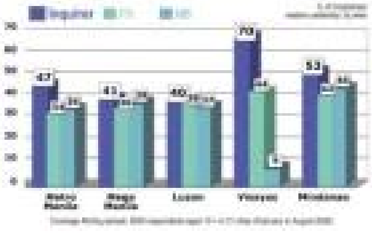
Arroyo, Antonio among top picks in Dec. 16 NCA derby



The nation's most read newspaper.

Nielsen and Synovate inquired. The nation answered.
Thank you to all our readers, advertisers,
and partners for making this happen.

Nielsen Media Index



Synovate Media Atlas



INQUIRER

Sources: Nielsen Media Index, Q3 2008, All People 10+, National Urban Philippines; Synovate Nationwide Urban Media Atlas Survey, July 2007 to June 2008.

IN THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS



San Miguel starts foray into telecom

Eyes 60% stake in cash-strapped listed firm

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. IS IN TALKS TO ACQUIRE A controlling stake in publicly listed Liberty Telecom Holdings Inc. as it starts its foray into the telecommunications industry.

San Miguel vice chair and president Ramon Ang confirmed to the Inquirer that San Miguel was in negotiations to buy up to 60 percent of Liberty Telecom.

Ang declined to disclose the status of the negotiations.

Ang said San Miguel was also prepared to comply with the tender offer rule, which requires an investor to offer to buy out minority shareholders if the investor buys at least 35 percent of a publicly held company, if the conglomerate succeeds in taking control of Liberty Telecom.

He said the "very good frequency" in the congressional franchise of Liberty Telecom's subsidiary was what lured San Miguel to offer to acquire the firm.

Another favorable factor in the possible deal was that Liberty Telecom is partnering with Qatar Telecom, Ang added.

Liberty Telecom recently said it was increasing its authorized capital stock by P4.6 billion by issuing preferred shares, which have no voting rights but get the first crack at dividend payments.

Liberty Telecom also said its board approved the issuance of preferred shares to wi-Tribe Ltd. and White Dove Solution Holdings Inc. as part of a plan to convert the two firms' loans into equity. The preferred shares will be priced at P1.50 each.

wi-Tribe is a joint venture between Qtel, the exclusive telecommunications service provider in Qatar, and A.A. Tahir Group of Companies [illegible] of Saudi Arabia. Qtel has a 78 percent stake in the venture.

Liberty Telecom was incorporated on Jan. 14, 1994, primarily to engage in realty and personal property business and to deal in stocks, bonds and other securities. It is the holding company of Liberty Broadcasting Network Inc. and Skyphone Logistics Inc.

Liberty Broadcasting has a congressional franchise approved in 1996 and is valid until 2014 to operate radio broadcasting stations and television stations for international and domestic communications. Skyphone Logistics is the marketing and distribution partner of Liberty Broadcasting.

SAN MIGUEL B4

Firms push 'buy local products' drive

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL MANUFACTURERS YESterday intensified their campaign for greater use of locally made products among government agencies, which they said would be the country's shield against the impact of the unfolding global financial crisis.

Also yesterday, the Federation of Philippine Industries kicked off the three-day Philippine Manufacturers and Producers Exposition at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

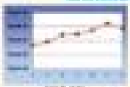
"This is the second of a yearly tradition that we have organized," FPI president Jesus L. Arranza said in an interview.

"We started this last year following President Macapagal-Arroyo's signing of an order that mandates all government agencies to buy only locally processed materials," Arranza explained.

He was referring to Administrative Order No. 227, which requires agencies of the national

FIRMS B4

CURRENCIES



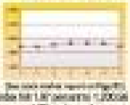
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 48.[illegible] = $ 1

As of [illegible] Dec. 12, 2008

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close 3% lower



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SHARES CLOSED 3 PERCENT LOWER yesterday in a reaction to the slowdown in foreign markets and the collapse of a bailout deal for struggling [illegible] companies, dealers told AFP.

The composite index fell [illegible] points to 1,866.74, while the all-shares index fell 1.81 percent to 1,200.58 points. There were only 18 gainers, 69 losers and 29 unchanged.

Volume totaled 621.3 million shares worth P1.32 billion.

"It's the delay in the approval of the bailout for US automakers that pulled down markets overseas, causing the Philippine market to decline as well," said Peter Lee of [illegible] Securities Inc. "The concerns now are the overseas economic recessions. When will it end?"

"The main worry is whether our economy will slow down faster than expected or if the impact of the US slowdown will be deeper than expected," he said.

Plans for a massive anti-government rally in the financial district later yesterday had "little effect" on trading locally, he added.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. [illegible] 0.5 percent to P2,1[illegible]. San Miguel Corp. saw its "A" shares remain at P44 while its "B" shares gained 1.2 percent to P41.50. AFP

SM group gets Pagcor license for gaming hub

Construction to start in 2009

e'Telecare completes sale to Ayala-led partnership

Philrealty settles ₱168.5M in debts to BPI

Firm delays RP mine plan

San Miguel . . .

Firms push 'buy . . .

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Land Bank eyes additional $102.98M to fund priority sectors

PDIC sees way out for troubled banks

Insurer hopes to maintain consumer confidence with 'bridge banking'





ERC prepares rules for new power program

Asian stocks tank; investor sentiment worsens

More damage to US seen with failure of auto bailout talks



Bank of America prepares to cut 35,000 jobs

FBI arrests former head of Nasdaq

Oil prices ease to below $46/barrel

South Korea scrambles to calm spooked market

BUSINESS

Biofuel sector to reel in P80B in investments

PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

RP searches for perfect green homes

By Charles E. Buban

IN 2004 A $10-MILLION challenge—the Ansari X-Prize—dared anyone or any outfit to privately build a vehicle that could safely haul a pilot and the equivalent weight of two passengers to the edge of space and then repeat the feat within two weeks.

This unusual competition, which SpaceShipOne eventually won, was organized in the hope of spurring the development of commercial space flight.

In a way, the competition that the University of the Philippines' College of Architecture has recently conceived together with cement manufacturer Lafarge Cement Services (Philippines) reminds us of the Ansari X-Prize.

While the prize money involved is nowhere near the Ansari X-Prize, the thrust of the "Ang Pinakamagandang Bahay sa Balat ng Lupa (the most beautiful house on the face of the earth)" competition believes those who are organizing value more the honor of being able to be an industry catalyst.

European and American

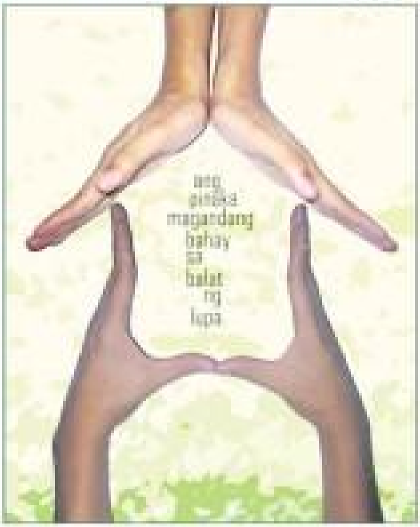
"Most of housing designs here have been patterned after European and American models which are in a way don't fit our tropical climate. The resulting houses may be beautiful to look at but they are just copies of the original. More over their design may even require high energy and operating costs for the household. The organizers feel it is time to challenge the aspirations of Filipinos through a redefinition of the concept of beauty in houses," explained Prof. Nicolo del Castillo, the competition chair.

The "Ang Pinakamagandang Bahay sa Balat ng Lupa" is open to registered architects and architecture students who will be required to come up with a complete architectural design of a low- to medium-income housing unit that could be constructed on a 200-sq.m lot.

There will be six winners—three from the professionals and another three coming from the students.

Aside from the P100,000 (prize

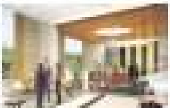
RP B2-3







Golf reigns at 8 Forbes Town Road



Height of golf luxury

Other choices

Moldex holds The Grand Towers Buyer's Night

Centrally placed

Other options



Eton Parkview Greenbelt: a prime investment in Makati

Smart reasons



Royal Palm Residences offers 'grand design' for social area



ARTIST'S perspective of the Clubhouse facade



ARTIST'S perspective of the Clubhouse rendition of the Leisure pool and Gardens

Grandiose elements

Buildings and units

Lot owners group pursues safety, environment programs for Global City

Safety

Recycling

SCIENCE/HEALTH



Lifting the taboo on facial rejuvenation

Gaining popularity

No recovery time

Putting our mind's built-in GPS to work

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

Positive thoughts

Can be programmed



Control center

A climate for change

DISCOVER

Climate change

Demographic disaster

Espousing safe, accessible healthcare with Cheaper Medicine Bill

Quality, affordable drugs

Price list

Building a family



THE CHAN family



VICO at Tropeza Restaurant and Bar where his painting adorns the bar

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

CHRISTMAS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR building and development. It is a season rich with opportunities to launch new structures or reinforce existing ones. But here I speak not of high-rise projects, commercial spaces or residential villages. Christmas is the season for family so this time let us shift our focus to the family and what it takes to build and fortify one.

In an elevator once, I saw what was supposed to be an inspirational poster: "Success is measured by what you are willing to give up." It could speak to a lot of people in different ways. But when seen in reference to the conflict between career and family, I cannot find it in my heart to agree.

Real success

Louis Sullivan, the so-called Father of American Architecture, and Frank Lloyd Wright, the so-called Son of Modern Architecture, died lonely men. Though they were both wealthy and popular, their success was achieved at the expense of their families. That makes it a bittersweet success, an iniquitous tradeoff. Real success lies in the achievement of an integrated life, one with no compromises, a healthy balance between a satisfying career and a loving family.

As a testament to this, I would like to cite the family of Yulius Chan Jr. and Catherine Candelaria-Chan, both architects, and their two sons, Carlos, 19, and Vico, 17. Carlos is quickly following in the footsteps of his parents, currently taking up BS Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas while Vico is currently enrolled in SHINE Special Intervention Center, a school for special children.

Several years ago, Jun began a very promising career in Hong Kong, working with John Tang and Associates, a prestigious HK-based architectural design firm. Due to his fine abilities, he was being groomed for a top position.

Giving up one dream

Then the couple found out that Vico, then 2 years old, needed special care. They were advised that it was important at that stage for Vico to understand the concept of family. After a while, they decided that their family had to come first and Jun chose to sacrifice his career for his son. However, the couple claims that they have no regrets giving up one dream in exchange for the reality of family. It has all been worth it.

For a time, Cathy was head of the design department of a leading fast-food chain. Currently, she is helping Jun in their architectural design and management firm, the Chan-Candelaria Inc. They do a lot of restaurant design and retail fit-outs. Their clients include known establishments such as Mocha Blends, Pizza Jacks, McDonald's, Café de Lipa, World Chicken, Tropeza, Dutch Julia, Denny's, DonCato and Boston Bowers.

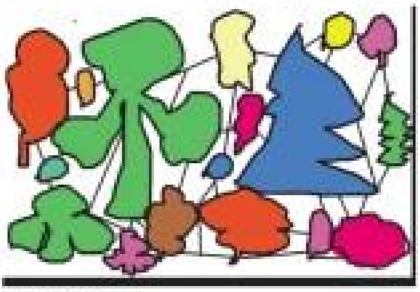
Despite the balancing act of family life and career, they manage beautifully to organize children's formation activities. Jun and Cathy are head coordinators of the CFC Kids for Christ.

As to their older son, Carlos, his role as sibling was not easy at first. He could not understand why Vico could not respond or play with him like his other friends. At first, he did not see why Vico always got more attention and why he had to attend workshops in SHINE as well. With loving patience, the couple worked for Carlos to mature and understand his brother. After a few years of prayer and support, Carlos is now a perfect brother to Vico.

Vico, on the other hand, has shown a great aptitude for art. He has held his own exhibits, along with artworks of other special children. In fact, some of his works have been used to adorn the walls of the Tropeza Restaurant and Bar in Greenbelt 5. In addition, Vico participates in on-the-spot painting contests and usually lands among the top finalists. His medium includes computer painting and colored pencils, and recently he has ventured into metal ink gel sketching. Amazing!

What is most noticeable whenever I meet this family is the genuine smile on Cathy's face and the apparent breadth of Jun's patience. The couple avers, "We are proud to be a special family to Vico. Through him we acquired a true sense of love, answering the call to patience and sacrifice. For all of these blessings we are truly thankful to God!"

For your comments and suggestions, please send e-mail to marcosdeguzmanjr@yahoo.com.



ANOTHER of Vico's paintings

RP searches for perfect . . .

From page B1

award and P75,000 (student) prize money for the first prize winner, their work will be used as basis for the actual houses that will be constructed inside UP-Diliman.

Lafarge will be in charge of constructing the houses, which will eventually be donated to the college.

She added that even developers are now interested because the winners would give them an idea on what house model would provide them more savings while still providing beautiful homes that best reflect the Philippine culture.

Energy efficiency

"We now find ourselves needing to address the rising energy prices and revising our homes for energy efficiency has become one of the most important aspects that should be addressed," he said.

Del Castillo said that to be efficient, a lot of houses have to utilize expensive technologies in design.

"Who knows, one or two of these entries would present an innovative way that maybe cost efficient while great to look at. We have a large talent pool and this competition is one of tapping some of them," he said.

To enter the competition, participants must fill out and submit the registration form, and pay a nonrefundable P500 fee.

Registration ends in January 2009 with the winners to be announced in March 2009.

"The entries must provide complete architectural designs of a low- to medium-income housing unit that could be constructed on a 200-sq-m lot.

"The house should be within the range of P750,000—the maximum affordable economic housing loan of Pag-Ibig—and should have a design that would serve the needs of a family of a maximum of five household members," Del Castillo said.

He also added that the entries should also incorporate locally available and sustainable, green systems and/or materials (other requirements are outlined at http://www.upd.edu.ph/~ca/).

"Alternative building materials or construction systems should have the potential for application to both low-cost and upscale construction scenarios," he added.



A diversity of living experiences in prime locations

Filinvest Legacy – Providing the Dream Home Your Family Deserves

Pleasures of suburbia

Perks of condo living

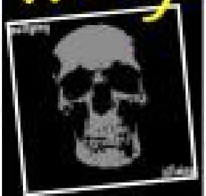
Serenity in the city

Master-planned townships

Super LifeStyle
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



Wolfgang howls back

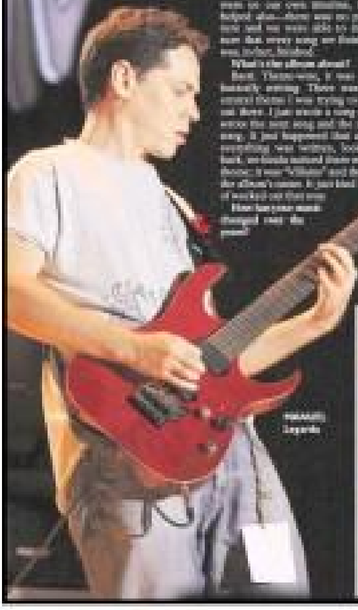


Their new album, 'Villains,' was digitally orchestrated from three countries

WOLFGANG USED TO scare me. I always considered myself a rocker, but heavy metal was always a little beyond my comfort zone even if I was very much exposed to it by my brother and friends from high school. Sepultura, Megadeth, Slayer, Anthrax, Metallica and Wolfgang. Even their names were scary. It was just too raw for my untrained ear, at the time.



Wolfgang howls back







BASTI Artadi



The ultimate gift shop.

At our premium reseller stores, you can find all the latest Apple products, from just Php 2,790. And because we're your local Apple experts, we can help you find the perfect Mac or iPod for everyone on your list this year.

Come in and find the perfect gift at our stores.



24/7 SUPER RADAR

By [illegible]

CHRISTMAS IS INDEED nigh. From the Christmas carols piping in from all over the place—the malls, the radio, outside houses by young carolers—Christmas lights, trees and parols hanging and blinking from every spot, to the cool weather, you can't just ignore Christmas anymore. So for this week, we point our event-radar towards two family-oriented places, Bonifacio High Street and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Should you find yourself on **Bonifacio High Street** in Taguig on Dec. 13 and 14, watch out for the **Merry Troopers**, a crew of inspired performers spreading Christmas cheer at 4 p.m. And if you have your favorite pet with you on Sunday, Dec. 14, there's **Paws for PAWS**, where you can have your portrait taken with your pet. Proceeds from the sale of the portraits will go to save the less-fortunate cats and dogs this Christmas. The photo session starts at 3 p.m.

Starting Dec. 16, the bells will start tolling for the faithful to come and wake up early for **Simbang Gabi @ CCP '08** in the **CCP Main Building Ramp**. Celebrate and live the spirit of this Filipino Catholic tradition everyday at 5 a.m. The novena culminates with the special Christmas Eve mass at 9 p.m.

The restaurants on the Concourse level of the **Power Plant Mall** in Rockwell Center, Makati have cooked up a treat for the Concourse's bustling restaurant row on Dec. 17 and 18, 3 to 6 p.m., and check out the **Chef's Banquet**, an appetizing sampler of dishes from participating restaurants such as Café Med, Myron's, Pasta Patria and Wild Ginger.

You can sample an array of delectable dishes—from the Spinach and White Cheese Spring Roll to the Roast Australian Leg of Lamb. And just to sweeten the offer, gift certificates worth P500 from a particular store are being offered for bills amounting to P750 or more!



PICTURE PERFECT. Pose with your pooch at Paws for PAWS.

On Dec. 19-20, you and the family can come as close to world peace as possible this Christmas. The Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group performs dances, music and traditions from countries around the world in **Pananaw Pandaigdig: A Celebration of Peace and Unity** at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo in the **Cultural Center of the Philippines**. For tickets and inquiries, call 891-9999.

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Restaurant Navigator at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 gigs to 2951 for Globe and Sun and 2910 for Smart. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag247@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.



Super LifeStyle



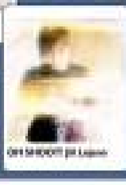
Forget digital—countless people around the world are hooked on instant photography

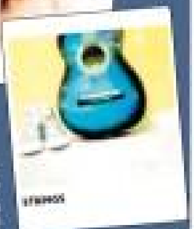
My Polaroid passion





HANGING Polaroids




STRINGS


THE AUTHOR

Conversation pieces





How talking to strangers will be redundant by 2018

Super predicts that the future looks silent

THUNDER ROAD



Grabdia

Digital labels

Eco-badge

Virtual post-its

FODDER

"If you want a vision of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever."

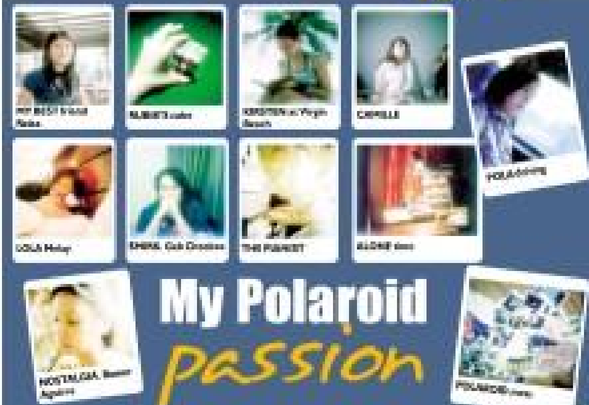
George Orwell

Lingo of the 2010s

REETEE

NAUGHTY

PMDS



My Polaroid passion

Instant madness



Here's how you can take the plunge into the crazy world of instant photography

'Tis The Season To Go To Araneta Center

Discover the spirit of the season as Araneta Center presents fun-filled Holiday celebrations for the entire family.

Join the Home Free Home promo and win a Manhattan Garden City condo unit worth P2 million with every P500 purchase at Araneta Center. Buy Coke or Alaxan to double your chances of winning.

Be enchanted by Mandarin Oriental's Giant Gingerbread House at the Activity Area of Gateway Mall.

Meet and greet Santa Claus all weekends of December from 4 to 7 pm at Gateway Mall, Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza.



Experience the ultimate in Yuletide shopping fun at our Grand Clearance Sale from December 26 to January 18, with up to 70% off on great selections throughout the Araneta Center.

And don't forget to check out the dazzling display of lights with the Fireworks Display all Saturdays of December near the Giant Christmas Tree.

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by attending our Simbang Gabi at Ali Mall (8pm), Farmers Plaza (3:30pm), Farmers Market (3:30am) and Gateway Mall (6:30pm).



Join in the many festive extravaganzas sure to put you in the Christmas spirit! Thrill to the sights and sounds of the Holiday season at Araneta Center!

For more info, log on to aranetacenter.net or gatewaymall.com.ph.

Under the sea Christmas adventures

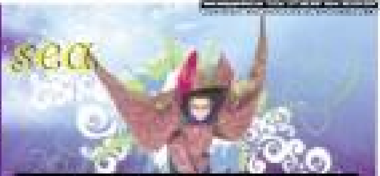
Mermaids and sea creatures celebrate the Christmas -Sea Adventure tomorrow (Dec. 14) at 6:00 PM at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.

Performed by the Trumpets Theater Group, Christmas -Sea Adventure is the heartwarming story of Birdy, the Penguin; Arriel the Mermaid; Bruno, the Clown Fish; Lexy, the Young Shark; and Sharla, the Mother Shark.

Under the sea of Atlantica, everyone is in a festive mood in anticipation of the upcoming Christmas sea celebration. Sea creatures sing and dance while doing their respective sea activities and sea chores. This happy gathering is cut short by a terrifying attack of fearsome and troublesome sharks. Everybody scampers away and hides in the safety of their individual nooks. The peace of Atlantica is threatened by the long standing enmity between the sharks and sea creatures.

The play will take the audience underwater with colorful costumes and sea scenery. Exciting songs by Trumpet's own musicians and dance production numbers will set the fun and festive mood - Under the Sea, Part of the World, Dat Thees, Gotta Go My Way, Somebody to Love Me, Fabulous, All for One, and Boogie Wonderland.

Enjoy a Christmas-Sea Adventure tomorrow, December 14 at 6:00 PM at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.



Performed by Trumpets Theater Group, Christmas -Sea Adventure is a heartwarming story of Birdy, the Penguin; Arriel the Mermaid; Bruno, the Clown Fish; Lexy, the Young Shark; and Sharla, the Mother Shark.



Kids will love the colorful and unique costumes of the undersea water cast of Christmas-Sea Adventure Musical Play.



The cast of the Christmas-Sea Adventure Musical Play will be on every colorful sea creatures costumes and headdresses on a sea scenery set up.



Arriel, the Mermaid at Christmas-Sea Adventure.



Lexy, the Shark.



Don't miss to watch Christmas-Sea Adventure and be amazed with every cast's colorful costumes and the play's under sea scenery set up.

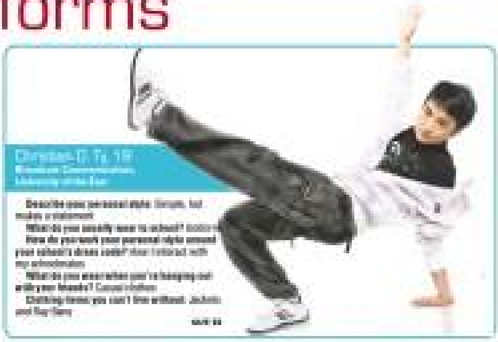
2bU
LIFESTYLE

Out of their uniforms

By Bianca Consunji
Photos by Cyrus Panganiban

With some spunk, these students style up

SCHOOL UNIFORMS CAN BE CONSTRICTING. However, students don't need to wear flashy trends to express their personal style. Some simply add an accessory or two; others claim that all they need is an extra dose of confidence and spunk. Let these students show you how they style up.



Christian D. Ty, 19
Broadcast Communication, University of the East

Describe your personal style: Simple, but makes a statement.

What do you usually wear to school?

How do you work your personal style around your school's dress code?

What do you wear when you're hanging out with your friends? Casual clothes.

Clothing items you can't live without: Jackets and Ray-Bans



Michelle, 13
La Consolacion College Manila

Describe your personal style: I dress according to my mood. My clothing style knows no limits.

What do you usually wear to school? The prescribed uniform of course, plus accessories to glam it up a bit.

How do you work your personal style around your school's dress code? By wearing big and bold accessories that stand out.

What do you wear when you're hanging out with friends? Usually something funky and street-glam. I also wear shoes that set me apart from everybody else.

Clothing items you can't live without: Shoes, big totes, oversized shades, stylish rings and bracelets/bangles.

Out of their uniforms

From page E1



Paolo P.E. [illegible], 17

[illegible]



Katrina Diploma, 18

[illegible]



[illegible], 18

[illegible]



Anna Patricia D. del Prado, 14

[illegible]



Christian San Jose [illegible]

[illegible]



Marco Miguel K. Lim, 18

[illegible]

These students joined the Skechers Streetdance contest.



Oracle on Katipunan Avenue makes schooling feel like home

Next level in dormitory living



SLEEK and modern

Studious atmosphere





HOME away from home

How to get holiday hair in three steps

Put in a little effort in your holiday look by creating casual waves or curls that are perfect with this season's elegant makeup looks

By Bianca Consunji
Photos by Cyrus Panganiban

IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR TEXTbooks aside for the holidays and bring out your nicest clothes for all those parties with family and friends. But before you slip into your favorite little black dress, glance at the mirror—do you really want to celebrate the holidays looking like you're in class?

Of course, being a harassed student, you don't always have time to blow dry your hair, put on makeup, etc. However, looking dressed-up doesn't mean you must spend hours before the mirror. Put in a little effort in your holiday look—wear casual waves or curls that go well with this season's elegant makeup.

The best thing about these 'dos? You can do them in 10 minutes or less.

Tokyo wave

Romantic but trendy, this look was created in Japan, a glamorous urban look. Your hair will be smooth from the roots to the mid sections, and will end in soft waves.



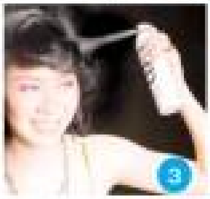
Step 1: Treat your hair

Apply a conditioning leave-on treatment before you start. This is one of the most important steps, as it prevents hair damage as you do heat styling. It also adds gloss and dimension to your hair. Do this from the mid-lengths and end at the tips; applying conditioner on your roots will only weigh your hair down. We like Kérastase Nectar Thermique, which adds gloss while protecting your hair.

Step 2: Create ringlets

Using an iron (use medium-sized), smoothen out your hair at the roots to eliminate frizz. Go over your hair just once to save time and to avoid making it look too flat; you don't want to look like you got your hair rebonded. Then twirl the iron at the tips to create soft waves.





Step 3: Set the style

Once you're finished curling your hair, spritz on hairspray or serum to prevent it from falling flat immediately. Fluff up your hair with your fingers before you go out the door and you're set.

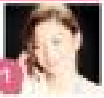

TOKYO Wave

Milano blow-out

Romantic and natural, this look from Italy is perfect if you're going out on a date or just want a hairstyle to go with a pretty pastel dress. This look is all about freshness and soft waves.

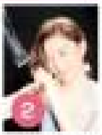
Step 1: Treat your hair

Again, half the battle is won by applying treatment even before you wield a styling tool. You'll be using a blow dryer for this one, but make sure to towel dry your hair to remove excess water to save time and to completely absorb the treatment.



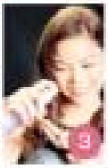
Step 2: Section your hair

Grab a two-inch section of hair and clip the rest of it back to prevent it from getting in the way. Wind the section around a medium-size bristle brush (it makes the hair smoother) and tug it out at the ends before releasing. Repeat the procedure for all the sections, and blow dry at the roots to add volume.



Step 3: Add gloss

Add glossing serum to your hands. Pour a small amount (the size of a 25-centavo coin) on your hands, then rub them together flat, and fluff your hair with your fingers. Make sure to use sparingly, as too much serum will weigh down your waves.




MILANO blow-out



Trendy tools for the tech-obsessed

Beware! These gorgeous gadgets will make you wish like crazy that money grew on Christmas trees

By Angela V. Ignacio
2BU Correspondent

QUAD-BAND CELL-phones, state-of-the-art DSLR cameras, Lilliputian laptops—the items on our Christmas wish list just keep getting slimmer and more sophisticated every year. More than just jumping in the tech-no-bandwagon, the reason we students crave the latest gadgets is that they help us keep up with the increasing demands of our academic workload. Leave the mind-boggling specs to the pros; for us, it's all about aesthetics, ease of use and massive storage capacity, not to mention the indispensable programs and features that make homework less stressful and more fun.

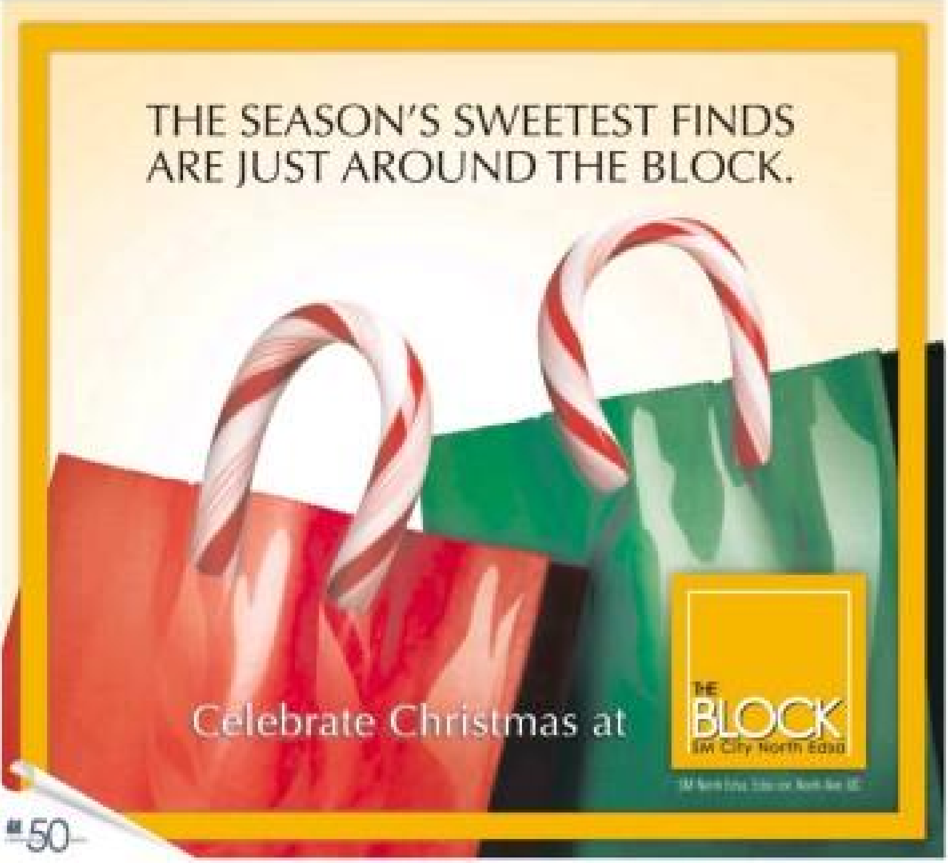
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Laptops

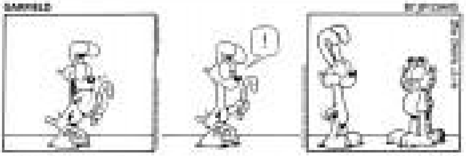
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Non-stop holiday fun at The Block

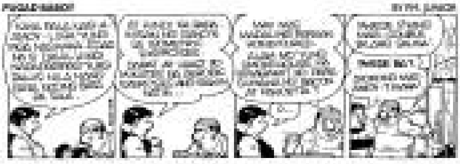
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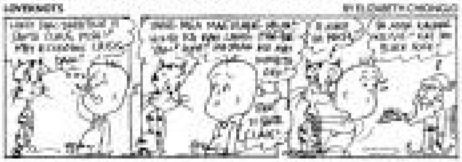
ComicRelief

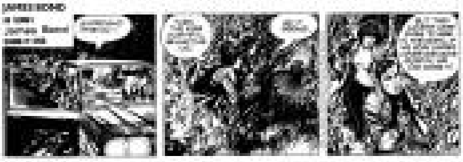






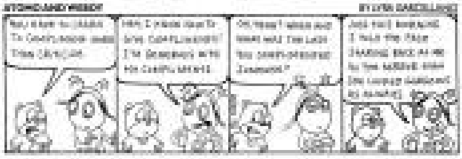










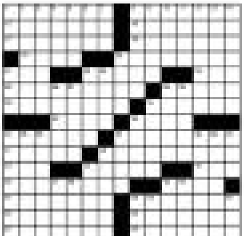


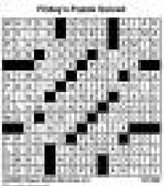






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	8				7			
		9			5			7
		4			8	6	3	
2	7	3						
						2	6	8
	5	8	1			4		
9			8			3		
			9				2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Trendy tools for the tech-obsessed

From page F1

Cameras

Other hot gadgets

Phones



Samsung Pixon M8800.



Nokia N96.

Accessories

More stocking stuffers

From page F4



HP Photosmart D5460 Printer

Protective cases

Netbooks

MSI WIND
Leather case
Screen protector

HP Mininote

LENOVO S10
Leather case
Screen protector

ACER aspire one
Leather case
Screen protector
Keyboard protector

iPhone 3G

More stocking stuffers

Grab these gadgets for yourself and for your loved ones

Pocket-sized speakers

Mini Egg Tumbler Speakers

Original X-mini speakers



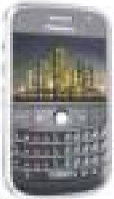
Smart phones



BLACKBERRY Curve 8320



GOOGLE Android



BLACKBERRY Bold





External Hard Drive



Panasonic Lumix LX3







Spirit Pop-up Flash

2BU LifeStyle



JO BROS. Kevin, Nick and Joe

THE JONAS BROTHERS

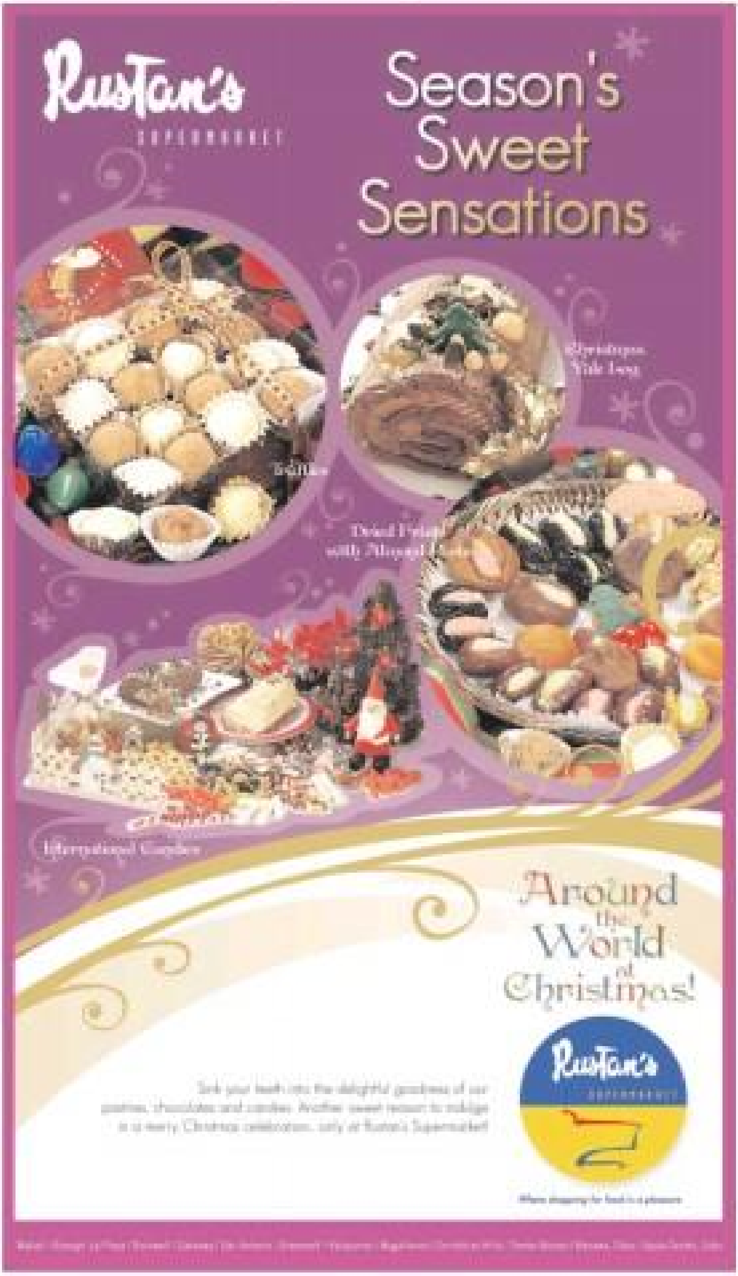
Squeaky clean, but they rock

Why these good boys are good for teens the world over

Nino Mark M. Sabio
2BU Correspondent

THE JONAS BROTHERS—Kevin, 21; Joe, 19; Nick, 16—are on top of the world. Disney is taking excellent care of them. Their second album is selling [illegible]. They are [illegible] superstars to millions of teens. They just won T-Mobile Breakthrough Artist at the recent American Music Awards.

[illegible]



A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Let the season sparkle and shine with Richmonde

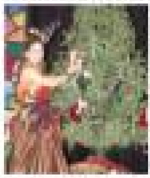


Nagaland is expecting you

Yuletide bliss at The Bellevue



MANDARIN LAUNCHES RED CROSS TREE OF LIFE



Holiday indulgence at A. Venue Hotel Suites

Tony Roma's caters for any occasion

InterCon brings back another night of disco

New Horizon Hotel at the bridal fair

Provincial Hotels Directory





One nation

College visionaries create a photo-tastic campaign for their generation's sake





By Anna Canlas
Contributor

[illegible]

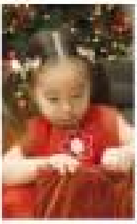
Tours, Leisure & Chow

Crossover countdown celebration at Dusit Thani

[illegible]

Hotel outreach program

[illegible]



Holiday lights and delights package at Astoria

[illegible]



Bataan Beach Resort hosts Mossy Bikers

[illegible]

Quantum's 'merry Christmas three'

[illegible]





FIELD TRIP

Dinosaurs rule the earth—again

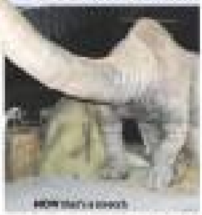
At SM Mall of Asia, they do

By [illegible]

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE extinct some 60 million years ago, but dinosaurs are alive and they're visiting Manila. Specifically, they have set up camp at Block 9, SM Mall of Asia. But hurry, the dinosaurs are not here to stay.

"Dino Alive World Tour" was launched on Nov 27, to a crowd of kids and adults, [illegible] shows. Coming from Bangkok and Jakarta, [illegible] Dino Alive World Tour, brought the attraction to Manila.

Upon entering, guests will see a dinosaur [illegible] and it's where the adventure begins. Dinosaur replicas from the Cretaceous and Jurassic eras are in every corner, [illegible]

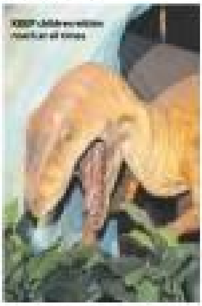


[illegible] they really move, blink, breathe, and growl at you.

[illegible]

There's also a fossil dig, [illegible]

[illegible]









SATURDAY *Special*



YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

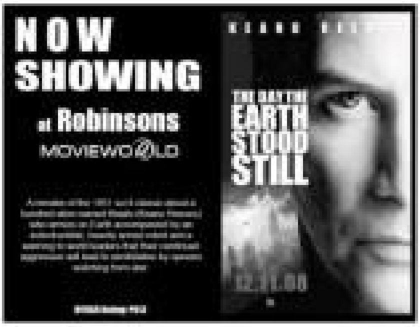
Happiness is a warm puppy



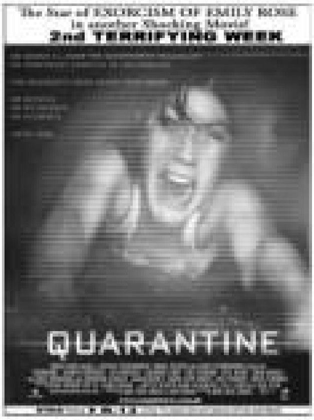




Happiness is a warm puppy









"QUARANTINE."

Lingering chills, thrills boost horror remake



CARREY: ...

Recession puts economic shine on comedies

Christmas carols bring cheer to Yuletide season

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

Inspiration

Music and lyrics



CARPE DIEM

Karl Princic: A Force of Nature





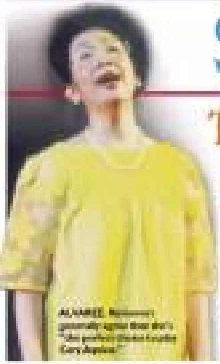








SATURDAY Special





The theater in Robert Seña's insightful eye



Carmen Soo shines in 'teleserye'

By Edmund L. Sicam

UP TO THE FINALE OF "KAHIT Isang Saglit" last Dec. 12, one performer who made quite an impression on critical viewers was Malaysian actress, Carmen Soo. She played a rich young woman who traveled to the Philippines against her family's wishes, to find her long-lost Filipino dad.

While in the country, she met a drug enforcement agent, played by Jericho Rosales, with whom she had a special relationship.

Tribulations

Since her character experienced all kinds of tribulations (a must in teleseryes), other actresses would have emptied their lachrymal glands and gone overboard with all kinds of emotional outbursts. Thankfully, Carmen played it cool and elicited empathy by being real.

I had a brief chat with her recently and she told me that "to feel" was the mantra she recited whenever she did a scene. She explains. "The secret to acting is not to let the viewer realize that you are acting. In a medium like television, you can convey a lot of emotions through the eyes alone. If I feel it, that is good enough."

Familiar face

Carmen, who has a degree in business management, started modeling when she was 17 years old. She had joined a contest sponsored by a Malaysian magazine. She won, and one of the judges introduced her to a modeling agency. Soon, she became a familiar face on magazine covers and television.

Three years later, she decided to go for the big time and flew to Hong Kong to try her luck. Her career began to take off as she did commercials for beauty products like Shiseido, Pond's and Ban and became a spokesperson for Longines watches.

In 1999, she landed a small part in a Jackie Chan movie, "Gorgeous." She was bitten by the acting bug and enrolled in a two-month acting workshop. Initially, she appeared in two plays in 2004 and 2005. She shares: "When I acted in the play, I had to train myself to be big. I had to reach the people in the last row."

Her stage performance attracted a movie producer, who cast her in a lead role in the movie, "Histo: Hungry Ghost Anthology." She did two other films after that, as well as the TV drama, "This and that."



SOO: Elicited empathy by being real.

Acting workshop

After her acting workshop, Carmen continued to learn about acting by herself. "I watched a lot of movies and observed how their actors practiced their craft. For instance, I viewed three movies of Nicole Kidman and noticed how subtle she was as a performer. I also observe everything around me and try to absorb what I see."

Carmen admits to being "conservative to a certain extent." She considers this an asset in Malaysia, which is a conservative country. "There are many limitations imposed on an actor," she adds. "Because I'm an actor in Malaysia, I have to consider that I'm exposed there. If I do something outside, they will know, so I have to be careful."

That's why, when she came to the Philippines to do the teleserye, she was apprehensive because of the kissing scenes. "I'm not open to it. But, I'm not closed to it, either. I deal with it as it comes. I won't say that if I do a bedroom scene, that means I've changed and become a different person. It's a step-by-step process."

"Kahit Isang Saglit" will be aired weekly for 20 weeks in Malaysia in January, and some scenes may have to be edited to comply with the restrictions in that country.

Intrigue

While shooting the teleserye, Carmen was not spared the intrigue that goes with the showbiz territory. She was blamed for the break-up of Jericho and Heart Evangelista, which she denied. That was something she didn't expect from local media, although she should have known that gossip is part of the promotions that accompany TV shows and movies.

Personalized coaching in wellness

THE ZEN INSTITUTE CELEBRATED ITS annual anniversary recently at its main branch in The Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Headed by owner, Dr. Mary Jane "MJ" Torres-Maldonado, the beauty cum medical spa treated guests to a sumptuous dinner while they were being entertained by Franco Laurel and Rachel Alejandro.

Franco is one of Zen's endorsers for mesotherapy hair revitalization treatment. He confirms: "Mesotherapy is the preferred treatment for hair loss, because it stimulates the scalp to induce natural hair growth." Typically, hair thickness or new growth is noted after six to 12 months. It works for men and women with stress and age-related hair loss, and for women with postpartum hair thinning.

Expert

Also present at the special occasion was beauty and wellness expert, Lexi Quiñon, who declared that the non-invasive and painless Zen Natural Lift "stimulates the body's internal mechanism to create a youthful look." Using placenta-rich plasma treatment, ZNL works at the cellular level by stimulating the body's healing processes to smoothen out lines and even deep wrinkles.

Dr. MJ said that her guiding philosophy is "elegance in simplicity". True beauty thus flows from inner well-being, and perfect health begets perfect beauty.

A graduate of UST, Dr. MJ is part of a Thailand-based group that conducts workshops for Asian specialists on aesthetic medicine. She trained in botox in Sydney.

PERSONALIZED/2-3

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero





VALDECAÑAS (right) with endorser Franco Laurel



AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 TWILIGHT	2 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	3 QUARANTINE	4 PRIDE & GLORY			
GLORIETTA 4	1 TWILIGHT	2 QUARANTINE	3 BOLT	4 CHI	5 ROCKNROLLA	6 TWILIGHT	7 FOUR CHRISTMASES
GREENBELT 1	1 TWILIGHT	2 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL					
GREENBELT 3	1 TWILIGHT	2 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	3 PRIDE & GLORY	4 FOUR CHRISTMASES	5 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	2 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	3 TWILIGHT	4 QUARANTINE	5 FOUR CHRISTMASES		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	2 TWILIGHT	3 QUARANTINE	4 LIVING WELL			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	2 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	3 TWILIGHT	4 QUARANTINE	5 QUARANTINE		
TRINOMA	1 FOUR CHRISTMASES	2 QUARANTINE	3 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	4 TWILIGHT	5 BOLT	6 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL	7 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	YULETIDE EVENINGS AT GLORIETTA 4
Greenbelt	DESIGNER FRESH CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY
Alabang Town Center	ACOUSTIC RYTHMS CONCERT SERIES
Ayala Center Cebu	THE CHAMBER CHOIR
Market! Market!	
Onstage	
Ayala Museum	
TriNoma	







The theater in Robert Seña's insightful eye

Absence





Personalized . . .

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Spectacle versus substance







Karylle opts for change



Gary V spreads Yuletide cheer in the Middle East



Special concert

Overwhelming support



Good cop, bad cop

By Nestor U. Torre

Revelation

Family

Spectacle . . .

Holiday movies offer escape from economy's gloom

LOS ANGELES—LOOKING FOR some holiday spirit to escape the economic gloom? Never fear, Hollywood is here. This month marks the formal kick-off to the annual US holiday season, during which major movie studios release many of their best films that will either lure huge audiences to theaters or gain traction in the race to February's Oscars.

The recent debut of films such as the relationship comedy "Four Christmases," the action-packed "Transporter 3" and the epic romance, "Australia," as well as the Oscar-hopeful, "Milk," provide the sparks for six more weeks of red-hot moviegoing that will account for nearly 20 percent of annual ticket sales.

"The thing about holiday movies, as usual, is that there really does seem to be something for everybody," noted Dave Karger, a writer for Entertainment Weekly. Already the box office is on a roll with the latest James Bond flick, "Quantum of Solace," and the teenage vampire romance, "Twilight," beating expectations the past two weekends to each movie took in about $70 million on their respective opening weekends.

Ticket sales

Paul Dergarabedian, president of the box-office watcher Media by Numbers, noted that only one weekend in the past two months has seen ticket sales dip from the same time last year. "Momentum is with us, and momentum is key because the more people are in theaters, the more they see promotion trailers and marketing materials. It's a snowball effect," he explained.

Overall US and Canadian box-office receipts are up only slightly at $8.35 billion this year, compared to $8.32 billion at the same point one year ago. Attendance is down 4.2 percent, according to Media by Numbers. But, if the rule holds true that escapist movies do well in tough times, the gloomy economy could bring glad tidings for Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Keanu Reeves, Will Smith and Jim Carrey.

After Jackman and Kidman finish romancing each other in "Australia," or Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn have had their fill of family issues in the comedy "Four Christmases," along comes the action-er, "Punisher: War Zone."

This weekend sees Reeves bring out "The Day the Earth Stood Still," a remake of the 1951 classic sci-fi adventure about an alien, whose presence on Earth causes a global stir. Also opening is the family comedy "Nothing Like the Holidays," starring Debra Messing.

Seven strangers

One week later, Will Smith brings audiences the drama, "Seven Pounds," about an IRS agent with the ability to change the lives of seven strangers.

Jim Carrey seeks laughter in the comedy, "Yes Man," which tells of a man who just can't say "no," and for families, there is the animated feature, "The Tale of Despereaux."

The big movie onslaught continues on Dec. 25 with Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson in a comedy about a dog, "Marley and Me," and the family adventure, "Bedtime Stories," which has Adam Sandler as a man who tells wild tales that come true. Frank Miller's "The Spirit," also debuts on Christmas Day and is based on the comic books by Will Eisner, about a rookie cop who returns from the dead to fight crime.

Throughout all those weeks, the movie studios will sprinkle theaters with Oscar contenders, starting with "Milk," which has Sean Penn in a strong performance as San Francisco gay activist, Harvey Milk, fighting for civil rights in the 1970s.

"There's not much light, funny stuff among Oscar movies. Thank goodness for 'Slumdog Millionaire,'" reckoned Karger, about the romance that has

CONTINUED p14



PITT: Plays a man who ages backward in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Medical community welcomes price reduction move of GSK for cervical cancer vaccine

Leaders of different medical societies have lauded GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Philippines' recent move to significantly reduce the price of its cervical cancer vaccine.

According to GSK, more Filipino women can now avail of the cervical cancer vaccine at the affordable price, now offered at as much as 50-percent reduction from its original price.

The price reduction comes at an opportune time as the economic crisis has led to tighter budgets for most families, making proper health care an even heavier burden. And when it comes to cervical cancer, many women are still unable to take that step to protect themselves due to the cost of vaccination. It is a sad fact that we see 6,000 newly diagnosed cases and 4,500 lives succumbing to the disease every year. With a survival rate of 44%, this means that currently, 56% of Filipino women with cervical cancer will die within 5 years.

This may no longer be the case as this price reduction brings vaccination within the reach of more Filipinos, experts say.

"Cheap vaccines ensure that the greatest number of Filipinos are vaccinated against the more serious diseases," said Dr. Eric Tayag, President of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, Inc. "The Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, Inc. lauds GSK's offer of a price-reduced cervical cancer vaccine so that it becomes more affordable to a greater number of Filipinos who will be protected against cervical cancer."

"As an obstetrician-gynecologist, I recognize the tremendous burden that cervical cancer imposes on women, especially in a developing country like ours, so congratulations to GSK for taking a significant step in the advancement of cervical cancer advocacy to the greater public," said Dr. [illegible], President of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society. "The significantly reduced price of GSK's cervical cancer vaccine will be a tremendous help to ob-gynes to reach and protect more women from the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women."

Dr. [illegible], President of the Philippine Pediatric Society also commends GSK's action saying: "We welcome this initiative to make the vaccine affordable to more female pediatric patients, the future mothers of this nation. In this time of economic difficulties, health should not take a backseat."

GSK's cervical cancer vaccine's indication, as approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, is for females 10 years of age onwards. It protects against the two most common cancer-causing HPV types, 16 and 18, which together are responsible for over 70 percent of cervical cancer cases in Asia Pacific. It has also shown efficacy against persistent infection caused by 12 other cancer-causing HPV types beyond HPV 16 and 18.

Clinical data also demonstrated that GSK's cervical cancer vaccine provides this protection for nearly six and a half years, the longest duration of protection reported to date for a cervical cancer vaccine. Certainly welcome news for women as it is estimated that up to 80% will acquire a Human Papillomavirus infection in their lifetime.

With this pioneering initiative, GSK hopes to realize its vision of stamping out cervical cancer, enabling more Filipino women to do more, feel better and live longer.

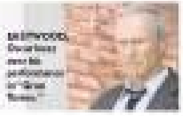
GlaxoSmithKline: A Leader in Vaccines

GlaxoSmithKline is a leading global vaccine manufacturer committed to preventing diseases in people of all ages with innovative vaccines and delivery systems. The company is active in the fields of vaccine research, development and production with over 30 vaccines approved for marketing and 20 more in development.

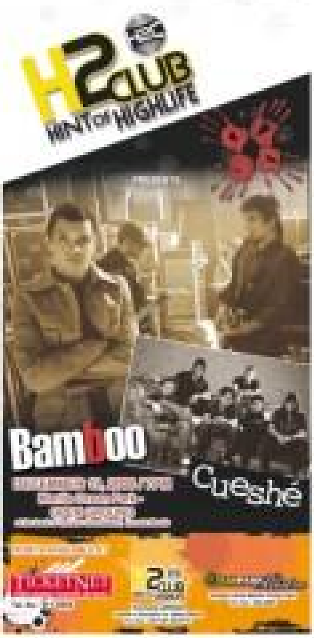
As one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and health care companies, GSK is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

Holiday movies offer escape from economy's gloom

[illegible]









WHAT'S INSIDE

- **When stars** die young /K2

SATURDAY *Special*



Jennifer Aniston on John Mayer and a dog named Marley

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

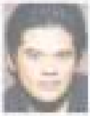


Ruben V. Nepales





Jamie Wilson performs in NVC's 'Duologues'



WILSON: Special guest

Spare key

Sexuality



When stars die young



Shock and grief

Key factor

Jennifer Aniston on John Mayer...



Possibilities

Here today, gone tomorrow



Romance

Dingdong, Kim and KC bag blimps at Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards





Chemistry buoys up schmaltzy vampire romance

Relationship

Love story



Drink milk, Lara urges kids

"The Future Is Wild"

Performers at Starmall

"World's Toughest Fixes"

"December Rush"

101.1 Yes-FM





Drink milk, Lara urges kids

MONTAGE

The Sun Shop at City Square Olongapo